

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Facility Compliance Checks

About COVID-19 Compliance Checks

What is a COVID-19 compliance check?

A COVID-19 compliance check verifies that the facility is complying with the guidelines set by the state. A sanitarian will assess the facility and provide them with the information and tools necessary to follow the state's COVID-19 regulations. **This check also is an opportunity for the business to ask any questions they may have concerning the guidelines.**

What happens if I am found in violation during a COVID-19 compliance check?

You may receive a warning letter to document observed violations and a follow-up inspection will occur. **However, compliance checks are an opportunity to provide education surrounding COVID-19 requirements.** If you receive a warning letter and have follow-up questions after it is issued, please call 614-645-7005 so that we can help.

I am a facility licensed by Columbus Public Health. Will I receive a compliance check in addition to my regular standard inspection?

Sanitarians are conducting routine standard inspections of facilities to ensure compliance of the State of Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code, Ohio Revised Code Pool regulations, and the Ohio Revised Code Tattoo regulations. The compliance check may occur as part of this standard inspection or may be conducted as a separate inspection.

Is someone available to come to my facility to ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidelines and/or provide feedback on my facility?

Yes. Please call 614-645-7005 to speak with a sanitarian.

Where can I find COVID-19 guidelines that are specific to my business?

Please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Common Questions about COVID-19 Facility Guidelines

Am I required to wear a facial covering?

- All employees of a business are required to wear a facial covering except for one of the following:
 - Facial coverings in the work setting are prohibited by law or regulation.
 - Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards.
 - Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons.
 - Facial coverings are in violation of the business' documented safety policies.
 - Facial coverings are not required when the employee works alone in an assigned work area.
 - There is a functional (practical) reason for an employee not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.
- Businesses must provide written justification, upon request, to explain why an employee is not required to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

Can I have live music in my facility?

Yes, but musicians must follow the same guidelines as the facility in which they are performing. Congregate areas for dancing and gathering are prohibited.

Is the use of lottery machines or jukeboxes allowed?

Yes, as long as social distancing guidelines are followed and the screens are cleaned at least every two hours or more frequently as needed.

What types of barriers may be used in my facility for social distancing?

Barriers shall be durable, smooth and easily cleaned and approved by the building and/or fire department. If the facility is licensed by Columbus Public Health, the barriers shall also be approved by the health department.

Can I seat people at the bar?

Yes, as long as social distancing is maintained and/or approved barriers are provided.

5/28/2020